



MARICOPA COUNTY

# Court Appointed Special Advocates

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A Child's Voice In Court

July 2000

## A Message from the Office of the Attorney General:

### KINSHIP CARE

*The family is at once the most sensitive, important, and enduring element in the culture of any people. Whatever its structure, its most important function is everywhere the same - namely, to ensure the survival of its people.'*

.....Andrew Billingsly, Sociologist, Author, Professor

**For any child,** leaving a familiar environment can be a traumatic experience. Children removed from their parents and placed in unfamiliar living arrangements pursuant to a dependency action are, likewise, significantly affected by these events. However, by utilizing the child's family members with whom the child has a bond for placement during the dependency process, the transition away from home and back to his or her parents, or, into another permanent plan with relatives, can be eased.

It is estimated that approximately 150,000 foster children, about one-third of all children in foster care, are living with relatives (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 1997). In 1998, 2.5 million U.S. families were identified as grandparents with one or more of their grandchildren living with them (1998 U.S. Census Bureau).

Although Adoption and Safe Families Act P.L. 105-89 (1997) strongly encourages adoption and offers monetary incentives to states to promote adoption as a permanency option for children in foster care, it may not be an appropriate permanency option for all kin-caretakers. Permanent guardianship by relatives is another viable permanent plan that should be considered. By statute, the guardianship can include provisions for visitation with parents and siblings, and for the parents to pay child support. As such, a permanent guardianship can promote family contact while maintaining continuity and stability for children in an out-of-home placement. Child welfare professionals should engage families in the decision-making process to consider a permanent plan most consistent with the best interests of the child.

Kinship care, however, is not a new concept. For yers, Native americans, African-Americans and Asian-Americans have advocated the importance of extended family as caretakers for dependent children and children facing termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings. Research suggests that kinship care offers greater stability for children in an out-of-home placement. these arrangements encourage family involvement in the protection of the child, while allowing the child the opportunity to maintain or renew the parent-child relationship.

During the past legislative session, Senate Bill 1290 authorized a Kinship Care Pilot Program within the Department of Economic Security to be established on or before January 1, 2001. Among the goals of this program are: 1) to preserve families; 2) to protect children while meeting their developmental, cultural and permanency needs; 3) to enable families to support children who cannot live with their parents; and, 4) to streamline, expedite and coordinate existing services and referrals to the program.

This legislation acknowledges the need for support services for such families. As a result of this legislation, relatives caring for dependent children, who satisfy  
(See Message, pg



Attorney General  
Janet Napalitano

*"Child welfare professionals should engage families in the decision making process to consider a permanent plan most consistent with the best interests of the child."*

### What's Inside:

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| CASA Corner            | Pg 2 |
| Commendations          | Pg 4 |
| Volunteer Profile      | Pg 4 |
| Training Opportunities | Pg 5 |
| Announcements          | Pg 5 |
| CASA Phone Directory   | Pg 6 |

The Maricopa County CASA Program is funded by the Arizona State Lottery through the Arizona CASA Program.

# Casa's Corner.....

## Lined Paper, Decisions and Dreams

....By Pat Cohen, CASA Volunteer

I met my CASA kids just seven months ago. At the beginning of my first visit to their residence, I found my heart racing. I had worked with children all my life, yet this was an important new adventure. After introductions and somewhat shy conversation that lasted quite a while, I presented each child with a spiral bound notebook that I picked up at a local discount store. We talked a bit about how these small lined books, bound in bright pink, could be of use to all of us. One decision was that they could be used for daily or weekly comments, like a diary, for public or private thoughts. I suspected this could be of value down the road, if things were forgotten between our in-person visits. It could also be used as a photo album for pasting pictures of family members and friends.

Another use, with my urging, was as a goal setting tool. We all agreed that each month, the girls would set new goals that we could review and discuss. The goals that were set reflected anything important. From grades in school, to group home rules, to books to be read, to how many nights a week one of the children would wear her night brace, these goals were good reminders of accomplishments that were to be achieved.

Now, whenever I visit, we always head to the goal setting diary. The girls take pleasure in checking off the goals accomplished and rethinking the goals not completed. There is no punishment for the goals unattained, except the disappointment that the girls didn't succeed at something they wished to take care of for themselves.

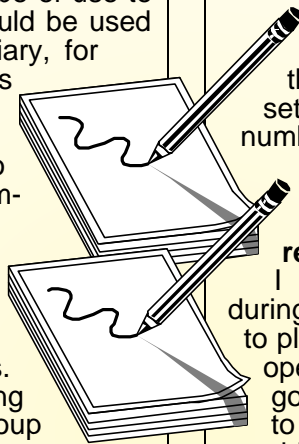
And this is the key! I love the fact that they are beginning to take pride in themselves for the contribution it brings to them. They have goals to

remind them about things **THEY** want to accomplish. There may sometimes be an occasional dusting of ideas thrown in by their CASA, but there is agreement that it should belong on the goal setting list.

There is no specific number of goals. One month there may be six. Another month, with a difficult goal to attain, we might concentrate on three. This little book is a helpful reminder to all of us, as to where the girls have been and where they want to head. There has been no need to set rewards for the completion of a certain number of goals, as the rewards seem to be intrinsic to attaining the goal.

**Distinguishing between fantasy and reality is an important part of this exercise.** I make sure to review each goal sometime during the month, and have asked one of the girls to place a check mark in the book, each time she opens it, as an additional incentive to review her goals more frequently. The focus, of course, is to have the girls begin to develop a sense of pride in themselves. **Learning that through all the turmoil of their lives, they still have some control, is an important lesson. They can choose to deal with things they HAVE the opportunity to change, rather than focus negatively on what they are unable to change.**

I look forward to presenting them with another beautiful, bright spiral notebook in months to come. We will reminisce about the goals they attained as well as examine what they can now do to expand their sights for the future with not only short term, but long term goals as well. Looking realistically at goal setting is valuable but so is having a dream or two for the future!



(Message continued from pg 1)

licensing requirements, become eligible for an array of services designed to maintain the stability of the relative placements. The services identified includes financial as well as non-financial services. These may include but are not limited to day care, case management, housing and relocation, parenting skills training, counseling, transportation, emergency services, parent aide services, respite, TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) and full foster care payments.

An evaluation of the effectiveness of this pilot program is expected by June 30, 2002. The analysis will include, among other things, the extent to which the objectives of the pilot project were successfully met.

As we strive to enhance the lives and futures of dependent children, the time has come to focus on strengthening the ties that bind.



**CASAs HAVE ANOTHER AREA TO EXPLORE WHEN LOOKING FOR ITEMS THEIR CASA KIDS NEED.....**

The Arizona Community Foundation has bestowed a grant upon the Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center to help pay for things that kids need, or items that will improve the quality of their lives, when there is no other funding source available.

The committee responsible for distributing the grant funds is composed of representatives of the Juvenile Court Bench, Court Administration, and Juvenile Probation. They are looking forward to many worthy applications.

Items that will be funded include:

Clothes, maternity clothes, shoes summer camps or programs, team sports activity fees, equipment and uniform cost, music lessons, instrument rentals and purchases, bicycles, including helmet and lock, prom and graduation clothes, sports and music lesson renewals, uncovered medical and dental expenses, uncovered counseling services and books and educational supplies.

Grant applications are available in the CASA office or from Danna Quinn, Juvenile Probation. You may call Danna if you have further questions at 602 506-4342.



It's not too late to sign up for the July 27 art workshop presented by Young Arts Arizona at the Durango Center, Room 223. Call the CASA office 602 506-4083 to reserve a spot  
Morning Session: 9am to Noon \*\* Afternoon session: 1pm to 4pm

**CASAS Will Learn How to Help Children Express Themselves Through Artwork**

The workshops will be led by accomplished artist, Viki Reed, an art teacher with over 25 years education experience. The room will be set up in a work-station or "center" format to provide "make-it, take-it" learning time. Participants will learn the basic art concepts, methods and materials. The working-station format will allow them to try various art projects, techniques and applications, enabling them to facilitate art sessions with young people.

Young Arts Arizona is a new not-for-profit corporation who focus on children who are socio-economically, physically, emotionally or learning disabled. Through artwork, they strive to help youth "express themselves, stretch themselves, and respect themselves." Through public exhibition of their works, the agency goals for this grant-funded project are to help children develop: 1) self esteem, self appreciation and a sense of identity; 2) positive connections to the world in which they live; and 3) full potential through arts and culture.

Just picture the look on the face(s) of your displayed publicly for all to see! Can you pride their parents/foster parents will and when you share what you have learned rewards of persevering for these children in



CASA child(ren) as they see their artwork imagine the boost in their self-esteem..... the experience? This workshop will be lots of fun, with the children, you will again reap the a new and fun way.



# Volunteer Profile

## Nancy Haines



### COMMENDATIONS

Nancy interviewed with the program in October 1999 and she was assigned her first case on February 10, 2000.

**She has worked an estimated 30 hours and has driven almost 500 miles in her first two months on the case.** Nancy lives in Peoria and her assigned CASA child lives in East Mesa. She has transported the child to countless counseling appointments and to supervised phone calls between the child and his mother (whom lives out of state), at the Child Protective Services office.

As a CASA, Nancy not only talks to the child and his family, but with case managers, school officials, foster parents, treatment providers, and others who are knowledgeable about the child's history and the facts of the case. She gathered and assessed information that she used to report to the judge. Specifically, she identified problems regarding the child's inability to communicate with the birth mother along with unmet service needs, and made recommendations regarding appropriate resources and placement for the child.

**Nancy's advocacy has been met with opposition from other parties in the case and she has persevered.** She has been instrumental in expediting services for the family through the Juvenile Court judge. After Nancy reported to the Court the lack of follow through for services, the Department of Economic Security flew the mother and her family to Arizona for services, specifically an assessment to determine if she could minimally parent her son.

**Nancy exemplifies the CASA role--she asks a lot of questions, she speaks up, she is persistent, and she paints an accurate picture of factual information for the judge to use when making life altering decisions for the child. She is making a major difference in the life of her CASA child.**

On the homefront, Nancy works full time as an analyst for American Express, her husband is a City of Phoenix policeman and she has two children, three dogs, a goat, two horses and a number of baby birds right now including falcons.

Marshall Porter did a great job on the "Next 50 Years" radio program on KCTK 960 AM. Way to Go!

Thanks to Lori Kirk for speaking with the Mesa Tribune reporter. Lori was featured in the "Neighbors" section in the June 17 edition.



|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alicia Juarez     | Kimberly Hutchins |
| Lisa Weyer        | Judy Flanagan     |
| Judith Chervenak  | Dolores Stehr     |
| Patricia Peterson | Deborah Egan      |
| Paula Powers      | Grechen Black     |
| Mary Leason       | Louise Jones      |
| Lynda Pederson    | Beverly Ashley    |
| Linda Warfield    | Martha Patrick    |
| Lynne Eivins      | Debra Speller     |
| Eddie Smith       | Susan Smith       |
| Genett Tomko      | Hugh Woodward     |
| Barbara Knoles    | Pat Nelson        |

## NEWS FLASH!



### CASA has lost Laura Devaney and Shannon Childs to the lure of bigger and better career opportunities.

We wish them great success as they are both deserving of the best that life can offer, however, this graphic portrays how we really feel....Laura has taken a position with the Arizona Bar Association where she will be in charge of the Speaker's Bureau, writing press releases and will be part of the Communications Department of the Bar Association. Laura came to Maricopa Co. CASA two years ago and has contributed greatly to the success of the Program. Laura's newsletter articles have been educational and a pleasure to read. The CASA program staff thanks Laura for all she has done. We will all miss her.

Shannon will be the new Administrative Assistant to the Director of Client Payments at American Express. Shannon has been with CASA for six years and seen it grow to over 270 volunteers. She has been instrumental in the production of the newsletter, and has been responsible for running the CASA office. We wish Shannon good luck and thank her for her commitment to the program.

On a happier note, we welcome Kristin Urquiza, our summer temp, who joins Esperanza in taking over the office administrative functions. These two are fast becoming indispensable CASA assets. For questions for which you would have called Shannon, please contact Kristin or Esperanza at 602 506-4083.

# TRAINING

## CASA Sponsored Training

**July 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Young Arts Arizona Workshop-** Come learn how to teach basic art concepts to kids. The two half-day workshops will allow participants to try various art projects, techniques and applications, enabling them to facilitate art sessions with young people. Learn how to help at-risk children express themselves by creating art and respect themselves by exhibiting their artwork. These free workshops will be led by Viki Reed, an accomplished artist with a degree in education. Location: Juvenile Court Durango Facility, 3125 W. Durango, Room 223, Phoenix. Please RSVP to the CASA office at 602-506-4083 by 7-12-00. \*See the feature article on page 2 for more information about Young Arts Arizona.

**August 12, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., CASA/FCRB Summer Workshop: Challenges for Kids Growing Up In Substance Abusing Families-** Michael Nerney,

an internationally known lecturer and consultant in substance abuse treatment, prevention and education will speak about the following issues: environmental and childhood risk factors, trends in adolescent abuse, the impact of future quality of life, role modeling and medication for foster children, neurochemical effects of substance abuse on the brain and differences between children and persons of other ages. Location: Hon-Dah Resort and Casino Conference Center in Pinetop, Arizona. Contact Teri Page at the State CASA office for registration and hotel information at 602-542-9547 or by e-mail at : [Tpage@supreme.sp.state.az.us](mailto:Tpage@supreme.sp.state.az.us).

## Community Sponsored Training

**July 13, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Parc Place Conference in the Pines-** Professionals can gain in-depth knowledge of the role medications play in adolescent treatment, learn current best practices in adolescent residential treatment, and hear first hand personal perspectives on

change and recovery. Location: Flagstaff. Cost: \$20. Call 602-840-4774 for more information.

**August 22, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Custody Issues in Arizona, Wells Fargo Conference Center.** Designed for social workers, counselors, psychotherapists, law enforcement officers, case managers and professionals who help clients with day-to-day problems. Will help CASAs spot legal issues, make appropriate referrals to community agencies. Practical guidelines and solutions will be emphasized. Location: Phoenix. Cost: \$199 (\$189 for two or more from same agency) Call 715 833-3969 for general questions or to register. Internet: [www.loman.com](http://www.loman.com)

**September 6-8, Child Abuse Seminar-The Reid Technique of Investigative Interviewing-** John E. Reid & Associates, Inc. present this seminar that teaches you how to tell if an alleged offender is lying and how you can get them to tell you the truth. Location: Embassy Suites Phoenix Biltmore, Phoenix. Check the website: [www.reid.com](http://www.reid.com) for more information.

## Announcements

**Angela Ashley** will not have a peer group meeting in July. **Karen Tyrrell** is having one in July but not in August.

**Free Tickets!!** Call the CASA office for free tickets to the **Arizona Science Center**. Tickets are good for one planetarium presentation or one giant-screen film. The passes allow entry into exhibits, too. Thank you Oonagh Boppart for donating the tickets!

CASAs can visit the jails outside regular business hours with their CASA badge and a copy of their Order of Appointment. They can do this Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thank you **Teresa Boulais** for sharing this information.

**Mentors Needed!** If you've been a CASA for two years and want to provide support to volunteers, especially new ones, call now! You can talk to **Nancy Molever** at 602-506-5221 about qualifications and expectations. **Hart Gottliebson** is our newest mentor. Hart has 8 years experience as a CASA in another state and 2 years experience in Maricopa County. She will take 5 volunteers from the July OT.

CASA volunteers can utilize the state switchboard for **in-state and out-of-state long distance calls**. For CASA business-related calls, follow these procedures: Dial the switchboard at (602) 542-1282 or (800) 352-8400; tell the operator you wish to place a long distance call and give the number to call; tell the operator you are with the **Arizona Supreme Court CASA Program** (not the county program). Switchboard hours are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**RESOURCES:** Check out [www.childrenwithdisabilities.ncjrs.org](http://www.childrenwithdisabilities.ncjrs.org) for a comprehensive online guide to resources for parents and children. This includes state, federal and national resources, research, and statistics.

**CASA PROGRAM STAFF****DURANGO**

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Nancy Molever       | 602.506.5221 |
| Lesslie Blakley     | 602.506.4082 |
| Stephanie Culberson | 602.506.3934 |
| La Donna Moss       | 602.506.3930 |
| Esparanza Tavena    | 602.506.4083 |

**MESA - (SEF)**

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Melissa Adomeit | 602.506.3935 |
| Katrisha Stuler | 602.506.3379 |

**CASA VOLUNTEER MENTORS**

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Angela Ashley  | 480 922.5760 |
| Beverly Burch  | 480 585.3042 |
| Anne Donahoe   | 480 948.8540 |
| Margo Fitts    | 602 473.0914 |
| Jackie Flowers | 602 265.3565 |
| Dana Gilroy    | 480 283.1876 |
| Lynda Peterson | 602 996.9394 |
| Karen Tyrrell  | 480 839.4039 |
| Linda Warfield | 602 971.0677 |

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